

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

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R 201453Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO USINFO WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1524

UNPLAS NIAMEY 3303

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: NA

REF: USIA 19567

NIAMEY--A DOUGLAS DC-3 AIRCRAFT SPECIALLY EQUIPPED WITH CROP DUSTING EQUIPMENT ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY TO JOIN IN THE GOVERNMENTS ERADICATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST INSECTS AND PESTS REVAGING CROPS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

GON OFFICIALS PLAN TO USE THE AIRCRAFT EXTENSIVELY IN THE COUNTRY'S EASTERN FOOD BELT AND IN THE NIAMEY AND DOSSO DEPARTMENTS OF THE SOUTHWEST WHERE INCREASED INSECT INFESTATION, MOSTLY GRASSHOPPERS AND HEADWORMS (CHENIEL) HAS TAKEN A HEAVY TOLL OF NEW CROPS THIS YEAR. FARMERS IN SOME OF THESE AREAS HAVE LOST TWO PLANTINGS TODATE AFD ARE ATTEMPTING THEIR THIRE. THE IDEA OF USING CROP DUSTERS TO SAVE THE MILLET AND SORGHUM YIELDS ORIGINATED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT AND FOUND SUPPORT AMONG FOREIGN ASSISTANCE DONORS.

THE UNITED STATES, WORKING THROUGH USAID, CONTRACTED ON BEHALF OF THE GON WITH THE AMERICAN FIRM EVERGREEN HELICOPTERS INCORPORATED TO FERRY ONE OF ITS CROP DUSTERS TO NIGER AND OPERATE THE AIRCRAFT FOR THE LENGTH OF TIME NEEDED. THE DOLS 200,000 COST OF THE PROGRAM IS BEING COVERED BY A USAID GRANT TO NIGER.

THE CROP DUSTER CREW, WHICH CONSISTS OF THREE PILOTS, A  
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MECHANIC, A PROJECT SUPERVISOR AND A CHEMICAL ENGINEER,

BROUGHT THE AIRCRAFT TO NIGER FROM OREGON STATE. IT EXPECTS TO BEGIN DUSTING OPERATIONS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

THE PEST CONTROL AGREEMENT BETWEEN NIGER AND THE US ALSO CALLS FOR EVERGREEN HELICOPTERS TO EQUIP A DC-3 NOW OWNED BY THE GON WITH THE SAME CROP DUSTING EQUIPMENT AS THE AMERICAN PLANE AND TO TRAIN NIGERIEN CREWS IN ITS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE. NIGER CREWS, THEREFORE, WILL FLY WITH THE AMERICANS DURING LOCAL OPERATIONS TO LEARN DUSTING SKILLS. THE AREA SCHEDULED TO BE TREATED WITH INSECTICIDES EMBRACES MORE THAN 140,000 HECTARES OF CULTIVATION WITH A POTENTIAL CROP YIELD OF 50.000 METRIC TONS. AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS ESTIMATE THAT TO REPLACE CROP LOSSES EQUAL TO WHAT THIS AREA IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING WOULD REQUIRE FOREIGN FOOD ASSISTANCE VALUED AT 20 MILLION DOLLARS.

TH UC-3 CROP DUSTER IS A LARGER-THAN-USUAL PLANE FOR PEST CONTROL WORK, ACCORDING TO USAID OFFICERS, AND THEREFORE IS IDEAL FOR THE EXTENSIVE AREA TO BE TREATED.

THEY REPORT AT THAT A SEARCH IN WEST AFRICA FOR AN AIRCRAFT CAPABLE OF HANDLING NIGER'S PEST CONTROL REQUIREMENTS THIS YEAR PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL. A SMALLER CROP DUSTING PLANE WAS LOCATED IN DAKAR, AND USAID HOPE TO ARRANGE FOR ITS TRANSFER TO NIGER TO SUPPORT THE DC-3 OPERATIONS. ITEM

NOTE: POST WILL FORWARD REQUESTED PHOTOS ASAP.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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